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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,412	03/19/2001	Kazuo Iida	1614.1140	6060

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EXAMINER

CHEN, PO WEI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2697

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2003

27

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/810,412

Applicant(s)

IIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5-9 are independent claim(s). This action is non-final

The present title of the invention is "Three-Dimensional Object Display System, Three-Dimensional Object Display Method and Recording Medium Recording a Three-Dimensional Object Display Program".

The Group Art Unit of the Examiner case is now 2697. Please use the proper Art Unit number to help us serve you better.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stolarz (US 6,240,421).
3. Regarding claim 1, Stolarz discloses a system for organizing, storing and retrieving information from a computer database comprising:

A three-dimensional object display system for displaying a plurality of objects in an apparent three-dimensional space display according to a plurality of object attributes used as criteria for selecting one or more objects ("The system includes a means for locating the virtual file folders in a three dimensional address structure having an X-axis with a plurality of first

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descriptors, a Y-axis with a plurality of second descriptors and a Z-axis with a plurality of third descriptors”, see lines 9-16 of column 3 and Fig. 11A-C);

An object data storage unit that stores information corresponding to the plurality of object attributes and to display data for each object (“A plurality of virtual file folders that contain items of information are labeled with different identifiers and stored in the memory storage device”, see lines 3-16 of column 3 and Fig. 11A-C);

A three-dimensional space data production unit that searches the object data storage unit (“A blank ‘Find’ screen contains information fields that are blank to allow a user to insert information as desired to be used as criteria to find Files based on the information provided”, see lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9C; Also see lines 3-16 of column 3),

Calculates coordinate values for three-dimensional space in which to position each object based on the plurality of object attribute values selected from among the object attributes for each object according to results of the search of the object data storage unit; produces three-dimensional space data for displaying each object according to results of the calculation of the coordinate values for the three-dimensional space (“The Filecube Navigator Icon automatically changes to reflect the current status of the File Attributes of File Phase, File Type and File Category (X,Y and Z coordinates) of any specific File or Item or groupings of Files and Items”, see lines 25-38 and lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9B-C and 15A-P),

4. Regarding claim 6, Stolarz discloses a system for organizing, storing and retrieving information from a computer database comprising:

A three-dimensional object display method for displaying a plurality of objects in an apparent three-dimensional space display according to a plurality of object attributes used as

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criteria for selecting one or more objects ("A blank 'Find' screen contains information fields that are blank to allow a user to insert information as desired to be used as criteria to find Files based on the information provided...one or more of the file attributes or descriptors of File Phase, General File Category or Type of File filled in", see lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9C; Also see lines 3-16 of column 3);

Searching an object data storage unit that stores information corresponding to the plurality of object attributes (see lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9C and lines 3-16 of column 3) and to display data for each object (see Fig. 16B);

Producing three-dimensional space data for positioning each object by calculating coordinate values for the three-dimensional space in which to position each object based on the plurality of object attribute values selected from among the object attributes for each object according to results of the search of the object data storage unit so as to display each object according to results of the calculation of the coordinate values for the three-dimensional space ("The Filecube Navigator Icon automatically changes to reflect the current status of the File Attributes of File Phase, File Type and File Category (X,Y and Z coordinates) of any specific File or Item or groupings of Files and Items", see lines 25-38 and lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9B-C and 15A-P).

5. Regarding claims 7-9, the statement presented, above, with respect to claim 6 is incorporated herein. It is further noted that Solarz discloses, method, system, software, and apparatus for organizing, storing and retrieving information from a computer database. Also see lines 19-32 of column 37 and 1-31 of column 38.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stolarz (US 6,240,421) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tsuda et al. (US 6,535,232; refer to as Tsuda herein).

8. Regarding claim 2, Stolarz discloses a system for organizing, storing and retrieving information from a computer database comprising:

The three dimensional space data production unit encloses each of the objects positioned in the apparent three dimensional space display within a frame of a uniform size ("The system uses a three dimensional graphical interface that aids the user in visualizing the virtual three dimensional organizational scheme of the invention", see lines 3-6 of abstract and Fig. 15A-P).

It is noted that Stolarz does not disclose reduces and enlarges the frame and the objects enclosed therein depending on a distance of the three-dimensional space from a vantage point outside the three-dimensional space. However, this is known in the art taught by Tsuda. Tsuda teaches an apparatus of generating an object based on three-dimensional object data that "determines a view point position according to correlation between the object position and the view point position...receives information about the selected filter and performs control so that a frame of the moving image to be mapped to the object is enlarged or reduced by using the selected filter" (see lines 36-67 of column 4 and lines 1-5 of column 5). It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Tsuda to provide the function of “controlling the reproduction quality of a moving image which is reproduced from a fusion of the moving image and three-dimensional computer in a three-dimensional virtual space” (see lines 56-59 of column 1, Tsuda).

9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stolarz (US 6,240,421) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Brush, II et al. (US 5,982,372; refer to as Brush herein).

10. Regarding claim 3, Stolarz discloses a system for organizing, storing and retrieving information from a computer database comprising:

The three dimensional space data production unit (“The system includes a means for locating the virtual file folders in a three dimensional address structure having an X-axis with a plurality of first descriptors, a Y-axis with a plurality of second descriptors and a Z-axis with a plurality of third descriptors”, see lines 9-16 of column 3 and Fig. 11A-C).

It is noted that Stolarz does not disclose disperses the positional coordinates of each object positioned within the apparent three-dimensional space display in a case in which such object data would otherwise be displayed in an overlapped state because the objects have identical or contiguous coordinates. However, this is known in the art taught by Brush. Brush teaches a visual metaphor for shortcut navigation in a virtual world, or three-dimensional world (see lines 15-17 of column 2), that “separate move-to coordinates should be provided in order to prevent avatar overlap and maintain the desired virtual reality” (see lines 38-40 of column 7). It is further noted that while the claim recites objects having identical or contiguous coordinates, it is clear that when objects overlap implies having identical or contiguous coordinates. It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Brush to provide a three-dimensional presentation desired (see line 40 of column 7, Brush).

11. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stolarz (US 6,240,421) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ishimoto et al. (US 6,262,694; refer to as Ishimoto herein).

12. Regarding claim 4, Stolarz discloses a system for organizing, storing and retrieving information from a computer database comprising:

A display unit that selects and highlights object data positioned within the divided planes or solid spaces ("Portion 352 of FIG. 12D is a field which indicates the reflect the current status of the File Attributes of File Phase, File Type and File Category of any specific File or Item or grouping of Files and Items", see lines 48-54 of column 24 and Fig. 12D).

It is noted that Stolarz does not disclose a dividing unit that divides the three dimensional space into movable planes or solid spaces. However, this is known in the art taught by Ishimoto. Ishimoto teaches a image display system comprising a "image dividing unit for dividing an input image into a plurality of images based on varying distances from an image pickup position" (see lines 1-3 of abstract and Fig. 1 and 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Ishimoto to provide the function of displaying the three-dimensional images on a large screen using display units having a relatively simple construction without requiring user to wear special equipment (see lines 60-65 of column 1, Ishimoto).

13. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stolarz (US 6,240,421) and further in view of Tsuda et al. (US 6,535,232; refer to as Tsuda herein).

14. Regarding claim 5, Stolarz discloses a system for organizing, storing and retrieving information from a computer database comprising:

A three-dimensional object display system (“The system includes a means for locating the virtual file folders in a three dimensional address structure having an X-axis with a plurality of first descriptors, a Y-axis with a plurality of second descriptors and a Z-axis with a plurality of third descriptors”, see lines 9-16 of column 3 and Fig. 11A-C);

A server that provides object information (“In one embodiment, an information organization, storage and retrieval system includes a memory storage device operably connected to a computer”, see lines 3-9 of column 3 and Fig. 1; Also see lines 25-40 of column 2). It is noted that while the claim recites a server, however, Stolarz discloses that the information can be stored in any computer. And a server is simply a computer that host the information in a network environment, which is been taught by Stolarz. Thus, limitation of claim is met;

An object data storage unit that stores information corresponding to the plurality of object attributes and to display data for each object (“A plurality of virtual file folders that contain items of information are labeled with different identifiers and stored in the memory storage device”, see lines 3-16 of column 3 and Fig. 11A-C);

A three-dimensional space data production unit that searches the object data storage unit (“A blank ‘Find’ screen contains information fields that are blank to allow a user to insert information as desired to be used as criteria to find Files based on the information provided”, see lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9C; Also see lines 3-16 of column 3), positions the object data

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in three-dimensional space by matching values for three types of object attributes selected from among a plurality of object attributes stored in the object data storage unit for each object to each of three coordinate axes in three dimensional space, and displays the object according to a predetermined vantage point ("The Filecube Navigator Icon automatically changes to reflect the current status of the File Attributes of File Phase, File Type and File Category (X,Y and Z coordinates) of any specific File or Item or groupings of Files and Items", see lines 25-38 and lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9B-C and 15A-P). It is clear that the three-dimensional visualization disclosed by Solarz is viewed from a predetermined vantage point, see Fig. 15A-P;

A client terminal that selects an object from the object information provided ("FIG. 5 depicts a typical entry screen or Home Page for entry into the system when the software of the invention is launched... This home page acts as the front door or access door into the system", see lines 6-16 of column 13 and Fig. 5). It is further noted that the software is operated on a computer that is able to connect to different networks (see lines 56-65 of column 9 and Fig. 1B). Therefore, the computer is functioning as a client terminal. Thus limitation of claim is met.

A notifying unit that selects the object attributes of a displayed object and notifies the server ("A blank 'Find' screen contains information fields that are blank to allow a user to insert information as desired to be used as criteria to find Files based on the information provided... one or more of the file attributes or descriptors of File Phase, General File Category or Type of File filled in", see lines 44-57 of column 18 and Fig. 9C; Also see lines 3-16 of column 3). It is further noted that while claim recites a notifying unit which notifies the server, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to realize that the software or system disclosed by Solarz is connected to the database, or server (see lines 3-9 of column 3). And by utilizing the

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search interface disclosed by Solarz, the search interface therefore functions as a notifying unit which notifies the server when search is executed. Thus, limitation of claim is met;

A receiving unit that receives the three-dimensional space data produced by the server ("A method and system and apparatus for the organization, storage and retrieval of information from both computer databases", see lines 1-3 of abstract and Fig. 11A-C). It is further noted that while claim recites a receiving unit, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to realize that the software or system disclosed by Solarz is connected to the database, or server (see lines 3-9 of column 3). And by utilizing the software or system to retrieving and presenting three-dimensional data from database, it functions as a receiving unit. Thus, limitation of claim is met;

The server and the client terminal being connected to the system via a network (see lines 56-65 of column 9 and Fig. 1B).

It is noted that Solarz does not disclose a vantage point changing unit that changes the vantage point with respect to the displayed three-dimensional space. However, this is known in the art taught by Tsuda. Tsuda teaches an apparatus of generating an object based on three-dimensional object data comprising a "view point position determination unit that moves a view point according to the user input and thereby determines a view point position" (see lines 5-7 of abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Tsuda to provide the advantages of allowing the user to control the viewing position in the three-dimensional virtual space.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Rose (US 5,930,769) discloses "System and Method for Fashion Shopping".

Inquiry

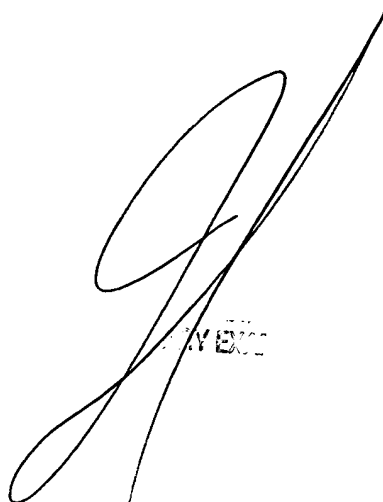
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8365. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (703) 305-4717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6743 for regular communications and (703) 308-6743 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2697

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
April 16, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen', is written over a faint, rectangular stamp that contains the word 'EXC'.